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81-0219

2 February 1981

DD/A REGISTRY

FILE: Committees

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations  
Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment  
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Report of Search Committee/Chief, History Staff

1. Attached is the Search Committee's final report with recommendations. It will be presented to Mr. Casey for review in the near future. Please convey our appreciation to [redacted] respectively.

2. For D/PPP&M. By copy of this report, I am asking you to advise what impact the personnel freeze may have on our recruitment. We are anxious to contact Professors [redacted] in the near future given their need to make plans for the coming academic year.

[redacted]

B. C. Evans  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:  
As stated

Copies furnished:  
1 - Each member  
1 - Admiral Turner  
1 - D/PPP&M  
1 - AO/DCI  
1 - Acting Chief, History Staff

81-0219

REPORT OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR AN AGENCY CHIEF HISTORIAN

1. On 25 August 1980 the Director of Central Intelligence made the decision that the Agency History Staff should be reconstituted in the Office of the Executive Secretary and be responsible to the Director for the development and implementation of a revitalized historical program. The Executive Secretary was instructed to recruit a professional historian from outside the Agency as Chief of the Staff. This decision was in accord with the recommendations of the History Advisory Committee appointed by the DDA in January 1980 and, in making it, the Director observed that he expected the Executive Secretary and all others concerned with the reconstitution of the History Staff to be guided by the reports of the History Advisory Committee and of its consultant, Professor [redacted] as to the purpose and scope of the history function.

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2. This Committee was subsequently selected by the Deputy Director for the purpose of conducting the Agency's search for suitable candidates for the position of Chief Historian. Accordingly, early in October 1981, the Newsletter of the American Historical Association ran a notice of our interest in receiving applications for the position of Chief of the CIA History Staff. Then in the 14 October 1980 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education the following advertisement appeared:

Central Intelligence Agency

Applications are being accepted for the position of the Chief of the CIA History Staff. The incumbent reports to the Director of Central Intelligence and will be responsible for the design and implementation of the Agency's history program. Experience in planning and administering history programs or academic history departments and a record in historical research and writing as evidenced by recognized publications are required. Distinguished service in US Government historical office is desirable. US citizenship mandatory. Starting Salary -- \$47,889. To apply, send resume and publications list to: Department A, Room 821-T, P.O. Box 1925, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer

3. As a result of these notices and of some telephone calls made and some letters written, we subsequently received twenty-five applications and a number of less formal inquiries from individuals who professed interest in the position. When the level of applicants produced by the ads proved somewhat disappointing, suggestions were solicited from Professors [redacted] recently retired Chairman of the Department of Policy and Strategy at the Naval War College, [redacted] of George Washington University, [redacted] of the Woodrow Wilson Center, and [redacted] of Harvard, all of whom have wide circles of contact in the discipline of history, and these produced a number of promising additional candidates who then submitted written applications.

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4. It was relatively easy to make a first screening of the applications received. In this we were also assisted by Professors [redacted] both of whom are acquainted with our requirements. Their telephoning (to other historians who have knowledge of our applicants) and some of our own contributed to the further refinement of the list. Eventually we arrived at less than a dozen candidates who seemed worthy of further inquiry or of being interviewed. Our further inquiry eliminated several of these, generally because we discovered that they were not highly regarded by other members of their discipline, a burden we did not feel we could impose upon the position we were trying to fill. Thus by the end of December our list had been reduced to five, all of whom appeared to us to be qualified for the position though they are in many respects quite a diverse lot. The five were: [redacted]

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[redacted] These five were interviewed, in each case by at least two members of the Search Committee, and all professed genuine interest in being selected for the position. Subsequently, Professor Talbott withdrew his name, indicating to us that he had accepted another position for the academic year 1981-82. The curriculum vitae of the remaining four are attached to this report.

5. The following paragraphs summarize the basic facts about them and try to indicate why we consider them outstanding candidates.

[Large redacted box]

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Agency's interest in recruiting a professional historian to serve as Chief of the History Staff was announced in October 1980. As a result of the announcement, supplemented by suggestions solicited from leading historians, the Search Committee eventually received about thirty expressions of interest from applicants of varied qualifications. These have been screened and the five most promising candidates have been interviewed, each by at least two members of the Committee. Based on this screening and interviewing, the Search Committee now recommends the following applicants for the position of Agency Chief Historian in order of preference:

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2. The Committee recommends further that at least the first two candidates on the list be informed, the first of his selection and the second of his status as first alternate, and that security processing be commenced on both at the earliest possible date. By this device it is expected that the Agency will be able to make a firm offer for the position in time for the candidate selected to accept and assume it early in the summer of 1981 when he has completed his obligations for the academic year 1980-81.

SEARCH COMMITTEE:

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2 FEB 1981

Date

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<b>TO:</b> <i>ED/DA m/c</i>		
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<b>REMARKS:</b>  <i>2 - H/DA H 3 FEB 1981</i> <i>Even in Evans</i> <i>worries about</i> <i>the freeze</i> <i>DA</i>		
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